

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Economic and Political Information: Soviet
Trading Activities

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1. According to the contract which permits the Soviet Government to purchase up to 30,000 cases of Chinese tea, the payment for the tea is to be made by the Bank of China, not by the Soviet Government, to the Central Trust.
 2. The reason for this method of payment is found in paragraph 16 of the contract, which states that the purchases of the tea are to reduce Soviet credits in China - credits which have been made by the Chinese Government for ammunition which was sent by the USSR to Chungking during the period 1944-45.
 3. This contract is believed to be an "individual" agreement regarding tea only, and is not part of the Sino-Soviet Barter Trade Agreement.
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4. The Soviet repatriation ship Gogol on her last trip from Shanghai took aboard a large quantity of diesel oil. This oil was in drums and was loaded aboard the ship from Chinese junks which were brought alongside the Gogol at night. The oil cargo was loaded before the repatriates' baggage and other cargo.

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